(b) and (c) The proposals received from the State Governments are under consideration.

[English]

Grant of Statehood to Uttrakhand

4971. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a bill in the current session for according Statehood to Uttrakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether similar demands have been received from other States also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Article 3 of the Constitution of India provides, inter alia, that Parliament may by law form a new State by separation of territory from any State, provided that no Bill for the purpose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President and unless, where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of the States, the Bill has been referred by the President to the Legislature of that State for expressing its views thereon. Uttarakhand is to be carved out of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh. Appropriate action will be taken when the Legislative Assembly of State of Uttar Pradesh is reconstituted after the forthcoming elections.

(d) and (e) A resolution for the formation of a separate State of Chhattisgarh passed by the Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh in March, 1994 has been received in the Government of India.

Patta on Forest Land

4972. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from Government of Kerala for getting permission for distribution of pattas on forest land to the local people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) The State Government of Kerala had furnished a proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 28,588.159 ha. of forest land for regularisation of pre 1.1.1977 encroachments taken place over forest land in Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur, Ernakulam and Kollam districts of the State. Formal approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the above mentioned proposal of the State Government has already been accorded on 31.1.1995.

Penicillin-G and Rifampicin

4973. SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of Penicillin-G and Rifampicin imported during the last two years, year-wise/product-wise;

(b) whether these are available in the country;

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of domestic industry manufacturing these items; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a)

	Penicillin-G	
	Quantity	**Value**
1994-95	10905 kg.	Rs. 1,13,89,114
1995-96 (upto Sept '95 only)	221.72 kg.	Rs. 4,59,736
	Rifampicin	
	Quantity	**Value**
1994-95	23509 kg.	Rs. 5,61,65,295
1995-96 (upto Sept '95 only)	5475 kg.	Rs. 1,55,74,288

(SOURCE: DGHS)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Both Penicillin-G and Rifampicin continue to be in the negative list of imports. As per the Penicillin-G and Rifampicin Policy for 1996-97 announced on 13th August, 1996, the import of both the drugs earlier linked to quantum of indigenous lifting has been delinked with.

[Translation]

Hindi in Departmental Examinations

4974. SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been provision for exercising option to write answers in Hindi in the Departmental examinations.